

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

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A parish of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese of North America · Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople

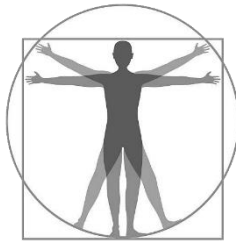
December 2024 Monthly Newsletter

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory forever!

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church is the little church with a big heart and room for all, where Jesus nourishes modern lives through ancient roots! Join our priest, Father Alexis Woytek, and our church family for worship, fellowship, and spiritual growth. Read on to find out what's happening this month at HTOC!

In the Flesh

This month we'll celebrate **Christmas** (December 25) – the Nativity of Christ, the birth of Jesus.



Christmas celebrates this key mystery of Christian faith: **Incarnation** (from Latin roots – **in** + **carnis** = “in the flesh”). In Jesus’ birth, immortal God came among us in the flesh

as a mortal human.

Saint Paul the Apostle explained the incarnation’s impact somewhat poetically: **“Remember the generosity of the Lord Jesus: he was rich, but he became poor for your sake, to make you rich out of his poverty”** (2 Corinthians 8:9).

Second-century bishop Saint Irenaeus of Lyons put it more plainly: **“He became what we are so that we might become what he is.”**

Both quotes point to an exchange at work: God became something lesser so that we, his children, can become something greater. Embodied as Jesus the Christ, God embraced our human nature so that we – joined to Jesus through baptism and the eucharist (Galatians 3:26-27 and 1 Corinthians 10:16-17) – can **“share in God’s nature”** (1 Peter 2:4), his unending being, freed from this world’s decay wrought by death-dealing sin.

In the incarnation, God stooped to our level to lift us up to his. What better Christmas gift could we ever get?

Mark Your Calendar!

Sunday, December 1 • 9:30 a.m.

Divine Liturgy

Twenty-Third Sunday After Pentecost

Friday, December 6

Saint Nicholas of Myra Day

Sunday, December 8 • 9:30 a.m.

Divine Liturgy

Twenty-Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

Sunday Observance of Saint Nicholas Day

Sunday, December 15 • 9:30 a.m.

Typica · Reader’s Service

Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

Sunday, December 22 • 9:30 a.m.

Divine Liturgy

Twenty-Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

Sunday Before Nativity

Wednesday, December 25 • 9 a.m.

Compline, Carols, and Divine Liturgy

Christmas · The Nativity · Birth of Christ Jesus

Sunday, December 29 • 9:30 a.m.

Divine Liturgy

Twenty-Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

Sunday After Nativity



MORE! ➡

Christmas at HTOC



Christ is born! Glorify him! Join us **9 a.m. Wednesday, December 25, 2024** to celebrate **Christmas** – The Nativity, the birth of Christ Jesus – with Compline, Carols, and Divine Liturgy. **Remember: Jesus is the reason for the season!**

Donate Christmas Flowers



Help deck out our church for Christmas with beautiful flowers that befit the joy of that holy day! See parish treasurer **Lydia Pinkowski** to donate early toward the cost of poinsettias and other floral decorations. **Thank you!**

Milestones

“Rejoice with those who rejoice” (Romans 12:15). Best wishes to our kinfolk in Christ celebrating special milestones this month! **Anniversaries:** Luann Donnelly and Mark Willemen (December 3). **Birthdays:** Luann Donnelly Willemen (December 5), Diane Orloff (December 9), Karen Ragone (December 22), and Stephen Kuzmiak (December 25). **God grant you many years!**

News and Notes

Help Ukraine! Ukraine continues to bear the brunt of unprovoked Russian warfare at a cost of innocent lives, brutal destruction, and human heartbreak. Please relieve the horror by giving humanitarian aid via **International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) Ukraine Response** online at tinyurl.com/iocc-ukraine.

Pitch In!

Church doesn't happen on its own. It happens when all of us pool our time, talent, and treasure together and put them at God's disposal to do his will as followers of Jesus. In a word, that's **stewardship**. Want to lend a helping hand? See our parish priest, Father Alexis Woytek to find out what needs doing. Want to become a supporting member? See our parish treasurer, Mrs. Lydia Pinkowski to find out how. Thanks for pitching in to make **your** church happen!

Reach Out!

The Church doesn't exist for itself. God calls it to reach out and share his love with the world that it lives in. Our parish charity bin is one way that we do such **outreach**, by collecting nonperishable food that our friends at **People Helping People in Hernando County** (phphernando.org) share with locals in need. Download a **grocery list** from our website (tinyurl.com/htoc-list). Thanks for reaching out and helping others through **your** church's charity!

Safe and Sound

COVID is no longer a global pandemic, but coronavirus still crops up now and then, here and there. Please keep alert and take sensible precautions while our church remains open.

If you feel ill, please stay home, follow doctor's orders, and take good care of yourself. Let us know if you want us to pray for you. We look forward to seeing you again once you get well!

Please feel free to wear a face mask if your health requires it or you just feel safer doing so.

Please respect personal space and give each other courteous leeway.

Thanks for your consideration, which is simply part of doing what Christ Jesus told us to do: **“Love others as much as you love yourself”** (Mark 12:31).